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In the Claims:

Please amend the claims of the above-identified application as amended by the Examiner so as to read as follows:

(Currently Amended) A group robot system comprising a plurality of
sensing robots, and a control apparatus controlling (i) an operation of each of said
plurality of sensing robots, and (ii) a definition of areas in which each of said
plurality of sensing robots are respectively located relative to said control
apparatus,

wherein said control apparatus responds to a detection of

an object by one of said_plurality of sensing robots by providing
a control such that each of said plurality of sensing robots, other
than said sensing robot that has detected said object, moves
outside of the respective area relative to said control apparatus in
which it was located prior to the detection of the object
wherein each of said plurality of sensing robots is equipped
with the same sensor function and a predetermined sensor
function level relative to the others of said plurality of sensing
robots, and,

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- 2. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The group robot system according to claim 21, wherein said control apparatus enables the predetermined sensor function level of a selected one of the plurality of sensing robots, and, wherein, when said selected one of said plurality of sensing robots having the-enabled function level detects an object, said control apparatus enables the predetermined function level of another of said plurality of sensing robots that differs from the function level of said one of said plurality of sensing robots that detected the object so as to provide a control such that said another of said plurality of sensing robots conducts a further search for said object.

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- 4. (Currently Amended) The group robot system according to claim 21, wherein said relative sensor function levels of said plurality of sensing robots is determined by any of a sensing resolution, a sensor type, and a processing method of sensor information.
- 5. (Previously Presented) The group robot system according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of sensing robots and said control apparatus conduct communication in a hierarchical manner wherein said control apparatus has the highest level of hierarchy, and said control apparatus responds to a detection of an object

by one of said plurality of sensing robots by providing control such that said one of said plurality of sensing robots that has detected the object and a another of said plurality of sensing robots located at a hierarchical communication position between said_one of said plurality of sensing robots and said control apparatus that relays communication when hierarchical communication is conducted from said_one of said plurality of sensing robots to said control apparatus moves outside a respective area relative to said control apparatus in which it was located prior to the detection of the object.

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 (Previously Presented) The group robot system according to claim 1, wherein said control apparatus includes a pheromone robot controlling travel of at least one of said sensing robots,

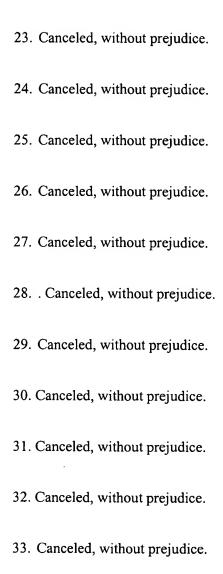
and wherein said pheromone robot moves, when one of said plurality of sensing robots detects an object, to a neighborhood of said object.

7. (Previously presented) The group robot system according to claim 1, wherein said control apparatus includes a pheromone robot controlling travel of at least one of said_plurality of sensing robots, said pheromone robot being responsive to a_detection of an object by one of said plurality of sensing robots so as to provide a control such that another of said plurality of sensing robots different from the one said plurality of sensing robots that has detected said object moves to a neighborhood of said pheromone robot.

- 8. (Previously Presented) The group robot system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said sensing robots is capable of fluttering flight by fluttering motion.
- 9. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 10. Canceled, without prejudice.

11. Canceled, without prejudice.
12. Canceled, without prejudice.
13. Canceled, without prejudice.
14. Canceled, without prejudice.
15. Canceled, without prejudice.
16. Canceled, without prejudice.
17. Canceled, without prejudice.
18. Canceled, without prejudice.
19. Canceled, without prejudice.
20. Canceled, without prejudice.
21. Canceled, without prejudice.

22. Canceled, without prejudice.



34. Canceled, without prejudice.

35. Canceled, without prejudice.

36. Canceled, without prejudice.

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- 37. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 38. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 39. (Currently Amended) A sensing robot capable of fluttering flight included

in a group robot system comprising a plurality of sensing robots and a control apparatus controlling (i) an operation of each of said plurality of sensing robots, and (ii) a definition of areas in which of each of said plurality of sensing robots are respectively located relative to said control apparatus, wherein said control apparatus responds to detection of an object by one of said plurality of sensing robots so as to provide a control such that another of said plurality of sensing robots moves outside the area relative to said control apparatus in which it was located prior to the detection of the object

wherein each of said plurality of sensing robots is equipped
with the same sensor function and a predetermined sensor
function level relative to the others of said plurality of sensing
robots, and,

- 40. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 41. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 42. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 43. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 44. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 45, (Currently Amended) A base station included in a group robot system

 comprising a plurality of sensing robots includes at least one sensing robot
 capable of fluttering flight through a fluttering motion and a control apparatus
 controlling (i) an operation of each of a plurality of sensing robots, and (ii) a
 definition of areas in which of each of said plurality of sensing robots are
 respectively located relative to said control apparatus,

wherein said control apparatus responds to a detection of

an object by one of said plurality of sensing robots by providing
a control such that each of said plurality of sensing robots, other
than said sensing robot that has detected said object, moves
outside of the respective area relative to said control apparatus in
which it was located prior to the detection of the object, and
wherein said base station corresponds to said control
apparatus.

wherein each of said plurality of sensing robots is equipped
with the same sensor function and a predetermined sensor
function level relative to the others of said plurality of sensing
robots, and,

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- 46. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 47. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 48. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 49. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 50. Canceled, without prejudice.

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51. (Currently Amended) A pheromone robot included in a group robot system

comprising a plurality of sensing robots including at least one sensing robot capable of fluttering flight through a fluttering motion and a control apparatus controlling (i) an operation of each of said plurality of sensing robots, and (ii) a definition of areas in which of each of said plurality of sensing robots are respectively located relative to said control apparatus,

wherein said control apparatus responds to a detection of

an object by one of said plurality of sensing robots by providing
a control such that each of said plurality of sensing robots, other
than said sensing robot that has detected said object, moves
outside of the respective—area relative to said control apparatus
in which it was located prior to the detection of the object, and,
wherein said pheromone robot controls travel of at least
one of said plurality of sensing robots capable of fluttering flight
through a fluttering motion.

wherein each of said plurality of sensing robots is equipped
with the same sensor function and a predetermined sensor
function level relative to the others of said plurality of sensing
robots, and,

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- 52. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 53. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 54. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 55. Canceled, without prejudice.
- 56. Canceled, without prejudice.